

a control step for controlling said information storage device, wherein, when an error is detected in said track following information while setting recording areas in said recording area setting step, interrupt processing is performed in which recording areas spanning from a recording area including said track following information having said error to a recording area including next track following information are replaced by other recording areas and recording area setting is restarted.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Independent claims 1 and 6 stand rejected on the basis of Tsuboi et al. '945 and Serrano et al. '500. In response, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to define an interrupt process not present in the cited references. Accordingly, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because neither reference, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests performing the claimed interrupt process when an error is detected in servo information, as in the present invention.

Tsuboi et al. disclose an information storage device in which defective sectors are replaced by the other recording areas, and Serrano et al. disclose an apparatus that detects servo errors and rewrites the servo information. However, in Tsuboi and Serrano, any method or apparatus for restarting and continuing format processing by performing the interrupt processing even when an error is detected in servo information is

not disclosed or suggested. Tsuboi and Serrano only disclose replacing defective sectors and detecting servo errors.

In contrast, in amended claims 1 and 6, when the error detecting part detects an error in the track following information (servo information) while setting recording areas (formatting), interrupt processing is performed in which recording areas (sectors) are replaced, and recording area setting (format processing) is restarted. In this way, by performing the interrupt processing when the error is detected in the servo information, the format processing can be restarted and continued, and it becomes unnecessary to perform format processing from the beginning or to abandon the storage medium. The cited references, alone or in combination, do not address this problem in a way which obtains this result.

In addition, “recording areas spanning from a recording area including the track following information having the error to a recording area including next track following information are replaced” in claims 1 and 6 is not disclosed or suggested in either of Tsuboi or Serrano. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are dependent on claims 1 and 6, and are allowable for the same reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims:**

Claims 1 and 6 were amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An information storage device which stores information in recording areas generated by dividing a track, wherein track following information is configured such that a head follows the track according to the track following information, said information storage device comprising:

a recording area setting part which divides a storage medium into predetermined recording areas;

an error detecting part which detects an error in said track following information; and

a control part which controls said information storage device, wherein, when said error detecting part detects an error in said track following information while setting recording areas by said recording area setting part, interrupt processing is performed in which recording areas spanning from a recording area including said track following information having said error to a recording area including next track following information are replaced by other recording areas and recording area setting is restarted.

6. (Amended) A defect information management method in an information storage device which stores information in recording areas generated by dividing a track, wherein track following information is configured such that a head follows the track according to the track following information, said defect information management method comprising:

a recording area setting step for dividing a storage medium into predetermined recording areas;

an error detecting step for detecting an error in said track following information; and

a control step for controlling said information storage device, wherein, when an error is detected in said track following information while setting recording areas in said recording area setting step, interrupt processing is performed in which recording areas spanning from a recording area including said track following information having said error to a recording area including next track following information are replaced by other recording areas and recording area setting is restarted.